

SOME NEW SPIDERS.

BY NATHAN BANKS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Pœcilochroa minuta, n. sp.

Length ♂, 4 mm.; ceph., 1.7 mm. long, 1.1 broad, patella plus tibia IV., 1.6 mm. Cephalothorax uniform reddish yellow, legs and palpi a trifle paler, except metatarsi IV. which are reddish brown; sternum yellowish; abdomen black, with short white hairs and some longer black ones at base; venter with a pale streak each side; spinnerets red-brown. Head narrow; posterior eye row slightly recurved, longer than anterior row, the P. M. E. round, their diameter apart and as near the P. S. E. as to each other, equal in size; eyes of anterior row subequal, all close together. No plate under fang of mandibles. Legs quite hairy, but the scopulas not dense; femora with three or four very large spines above, each spine longer than the posterior eye row; no spine above on tibia IV., one below at tip of tibia I. Sternum narrow, nearly twice as long as wide. Abdomen slender, no wider than cephalothorax, spinnerets large, an interrupted ventral fold near their base. The tibia of the male palpus has on the outer tip a large, stout, slightly curved projection one-half the length of the tarsus and blunt pointed at tip; the palpal organ is swollen near middle, the style is short.

One male; Brazos Co., Texas.

Cybæodes (?) incerta, n. sp.

Length ♀, 4.5 mm. Cephalothorax brownish yellow, darkest in front and black around each eye; mandibles rather darker than cephalothorax; legs and sternum pale yellowish, abdomen pale gray, thickly clothed with rather long white hairs and longer black bristles, mostly at base. Cephalothorax once and a half longer than wide, broad and low in front. Eyes in two rows close to each other, hind row about straight, longer than the anterior row; the posterior eyes larger than the anterior eyes; P. M. E. closer to equal P. S. E. than to each other; A. M. E. about as close to each other as A. S. E., dark coloured. Clypeus narrow; mandibles large, porrect, slightly divergent, front margin with three teeth, hind margin with two smaller teeth, fang long and stout; maxillæ twice as long as broad, rounded at tip, scarcely inclined, plainly obliquely impressed; lip longer than broad, rounded at tip. Sternum longer than broad, truncate in front, sides rounded; legs rather large, of moderate length; all femora shorter than the cephalothorax, clothed with hairs and spines, tibia I. with one spine near base, two towards tip; metatarsus I.

with two near base, two near middle, and one at tip; tibia II. with one at base and one towards middle, three under metatarsus II.; tibiæ III. and IV. with (under) two very long ones at base, two long ones at middle, and two much shorter at tip; above with several; metatarsi with many long and stout spines; three claws, the pair with teeth below. Abdomen once and a half longer than broad; spinnerets are before the tip, two-jointed, lower pair the longest, at base between them is a hump, and at base of this is a transverse furrow; the epigynum shows a short, spoon-shaped septum, leaving each side a curved reddish mark.

From debris on salt crust; Salton, Calif.; March, 1897. (H. G. Hubbard.) I am uncertain of its position, but think it very near *Cybæodes*.

Theridium cinctipes, n. sp.

Length ♂, 1.3 mm.; femur I., 1.1 mm. long. Cephalothorax yellow-brown, margins black, blackish around eyes and extending back to the dorsal groove; abdomen mottled with black and white, two pairs of small basal white spots, behind these a white stripe with serrate sides gradually narrowing to the spinnerets; sides with three or four white spots; venter black, with two prominent silvery spots; sternum blackish; legs white, with black bands at ends of joints and on the middle of tibia I. Abdomen moderately high, one and a half times as long as broad; leg I. very long, femur I. more than twice as long as femur III., tibia I. much longer than the cephalothorax. The male palpal organ is short and compact. There is a transverse mark across its base which has an upward projection near its outer end; a circular dark bulb is nearer the tip on the outer side, and from it a slender dark tube extends below, across and upward toward the tip, where it ends in a short, pointed sheath; near base of the sheath there arises a larger, curved, pointed process.

Brazos Co., Texas.

Theridium subterraneum, n. sp.

Length ♀, 3 mm.; tibia I., 1.8 mm. Pale yellowish, legs rather darker, a dark trifurcate mark on the cephalothorax; abdomen gray, with some blackish transverse patches in two rows on the dorsum. Cephalothorax highest behind eye-region; P. M. E. slightly farther from each other than from the P. S. E.; A. M. E. smaller and less than their diameter apart; legs quite long, femur I. longer than the cephalothorax, abdomen sub-globose, longer than broad, and as high as broad, clothed (as elsewhere) with long hairs. Epigynum shows a triangular area, with

a slender point in front, behind is a transverse area pointed in front, and in front are two dark spots connected to the posterior area by a reddish line. Taken from graves, Washington, D. C. (Dr. Motter.)

Nesticus cavicola, n. sp.

Length ♂, 1.5 mm. Wholly pale whitish, clothed with long bristly hairs. Cephalothorax rather short and broad; six eyes, sub-equal in size, A. M. E. not visible; posterior row nearly straight, the P. M. E. farther apart than from the P. S. E.; S. E. touching; sternum broad, sides rounded; legs long, all femora longer than the cephalothorax, hairs on legs longer than the diameter of the joints; abdomen pointed behind, one and a half times longer than broad. Femur of male palpus rather long, palpal organ large, a projection of tibia broadest near tip and bifid, one branch is cleft; the style is long, curved around tip of bulb, from the tip of bulb there projects outward a pointed spine, and below is another projection tipped with a short black hook. From a cave, Chiricahua Mts. (Wood Canon), Ariz., June, 1897. (H. E. Hubbard.)

Erigone albescens, n. sp.

Length ♀, 1.8 mm. Cephalothorax, legs, mandibles, and sternum uniform yellowish, abdomen uniform whitish gray; eyes on black spots. Head rather elevated; posterior eye-row procurved, the P. M. E. about as far from each other as from the equal P. S. E.; A. M. E. small, and close together. Mandibles of moderate size, vertical, armed along their lower front margin with several teeth, and behind with a row of denticles, sternum broad, sides rounded, blunt pointed behind; legs of moderate length, with many hairs and a few spines, one above on tibia IV.; abdomen oviform, clothed with scattered stiff hairs, which arise from minute yellowish dots; epigynum shows two curved dark lines approaching each other from behind, and a darkish spot outwards from their tips. From the inside of coffins in graves opened during the transfer of a cemetery, Washington, D. C. (Dr. Motter.)

Philodromus pacificus, n. sp.

Length ♀, 4.1 mm. Cephalothorax yellowish, darkest on the sides, which are densely mottled and lineate with red-brown, a white \vee mark on the middle with its apex near the dorsal groove, dorsum of abdomen white, showing two basal pairs of yellowish muscular spots, sides of abdomen broadly suffused with red-brown from base to tip, venter whitish; femora, patellæ, and tibiæ pale reddish brown above, lighter below, distal joints yellowish. Sternum light yellowish, the body is full,

quite broad and short. Eyes not widely separated, P. M. E. as close to P. S. E. as to A. S. E., the A. M. E. are not very much nearer the A. S. E. than to each other. Abdomen twice as long as the cephalothorax. Femur II. longer than the cephalothorax. The epigynum shows an area longer than broad, with nearly parallel sides, divided by a rather narrow septum widened at its tip, the apical part of the sides are dark circular, and the basal part light and oval. Olympia, Washington. (T. Kincaid.)

NOTES ON COLLECTING AT BLOOM.

BY A. W. HANHAM, WINNIPEG, MAN.

At Brandon, Manitoba, in 1896, some very successful collecting was done on the prairies and open hillsides surrounding the town. Except in the valley of the Assiniboine River, which is still well wooded, the country around Brandon is very open—regular prairie country—with, of course, a good proportion under cultivation, it being one of the good wheat-growing districts of Manitoba.

However, there is plenty of good collecting ground to be found in almost any direction, and within a few minutes' walk. A short account of collecting at bloom may be of interest to our entomological readers, especially to those who have never visited "the boundless prairies of the West." Or there may be some who have had that pleasure, but have never tried collecting in this way, for lack of opportunity.

In 1896, I was at Brandon from July 9th to August 4th, and in 1897, from August 5th to 28th.

In 1896, I had my first evening collecting on the 15th; in previous years I had often collected off flowers towards dusk, and that was my procedure on this evening. It was on my homeward way that the inspiration came to me to sweep the clumps of bloom I came to, and the result astonished me, and led to the practice of collecting in this way on all available evenings.

It was quite too dark to see things moving on the wing or at rest on the flowers, and the only way to find out the contents of the net, after sweeping, was to hold it up against the sky line; even then it was generally impossible to tell what the catch consisted of, though the moths in the net could be seen and counted. After sweeping a few heads of bloom, it was nothing out of the way to find a dozen or more moths in the net, and it was surprising how little struggling they did either in the